



# Info@starklawlibrary.org

Stark County Law Library Association

March 2002

## BEGINNERS

## "Visual" Search Engines

**The email address, info@starklawlibrary.org really works! TRY IT!!**

Special points of interest:

- Visual search engines "can help you re-find websites you've visited but didn't bookmark, add to your favorites or remember the address."
- Reviewed engines include: Answwwer, SearchShots, SurfWax, Vivisimo and WiseNut.

During my research of web searching, I came across a few engines that don't quite fit the categories that were discussed in past issues. But I like them, so I'm going to offer them to you to try - they will never replace Google, but I can see a real value to their unique concept.

Each of these search engines offers a visual image of the Web page for each of their search results, and some are even interactive! If you are anything like me on a Monday morning, you have probably, upon occasion, forgotten to document a source or just can't remember where you saw that great idea last Friday.

Visual search engines "can help you re-find websites you've visited but didn't bookmark, add to your favorites or remember the address." <sup>1</sup> In an article from Free Pint, Simon Collery comments:

"I have often been struck by how easy it is to recall using a site before once I see one of its Web pages. Even Web pages with relatively little distinctive detail are easier to remember than, say, domain names or descriptions." <sup>2</sup>

Our first engine, Answwwer 2.1 at: <<http://www.answwer.net/>> is a free downloadable visual search engine "that's based on the idea that a picture tells a thousand words." <sup>3</sup> It is a meta search engine that uses 12 major search

engines whose search results include live, interactive, clickable Web pages when you click on the "Review" tab. This program is fast, easy to use, and has several smart custom filters. "Users with a modem Internet connection will actually 'SEE' the benefits after only a few minutes of [using] the program [because it] works in the background." <sup>4</sup> It is powered by a side spider (RoBOT) and offline browser technology. When I contacted them for permission to use their logo in the column, they offered us a special discount (30% off!) to get Answwwer PRO! Contact:

[sales@answwer.net](mailto:sales@answwer.net)

and mention that you read about the discount in this article and they will send you a link for a special discount! Check out <<http://answwer.net/PRO.htm>> to see all of Answwwer PRO's advantages offered for only \$19.99 (without the discount)!

Next is SearchShots, at <<http://www.searchshots.com/>>, a visual search engine that returns the links, a brief summary and non-interactive screen-shots in its search results.

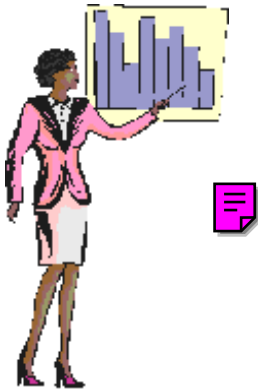
The site can be searched by keyword, or used as a directory. Two things that I really like about this directory/engine are first that it saves each of your searches as a tab at

*Continued on page 3*



## INTERMEDIATE

## Searching for Graphics



### Sources of Graphic Searching Include:

- General search engines - Google, FAST, Lycos' Multimedia Search, AltaVista and Yahoo!'s Image Gallery
- Image specific search engines - Ditto and Ithaki
- Medical specific sources - The Public Health Image Library and FindLaw's Demonstrative Evidence Market

This month's topic isn't strictly about legal research, but visual evidence is impressive to a jury if used in the right way. You may want to review the May 2001 issue of "info@starklawlibrary.org" to refresh your memory on dealing with visual evidence and also Jeffrey Beard's excellent article, "Punch Up Your PowerPoint Presentations." from American Lawyer Media, February 11, 2002. It is located on the web at: <http://www.law.com/cgi-bin/gx.cgi/AppLogic+FTContentServer?pagename=law/View&c=Article&cid=ZZZ05940EXC&live=true&cst=6&pc=0&pa=0&s=News&ExpIgnore=true&showsummary=0>.

So now if you want to find images to use in trial or settlement presentations, this month we will take a look at some of the ways general search engines locate images and some of the more specialized image search engines that are available on the Internet.

Many of the big-name general search engines offer image searches. "If you're looking for images, could we suggest 320 million of them? They're all at <http://www.images.google.com>." <sup>10</sup> But use their Advanced Image Search at: [http://www.google.com/advanced\\_image\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.com/advanced_image_search?hl=en) which allows you to specify sizes (from icon small to wallpaper-sized large), file types (JPG or GIF), or colors (B&W, grayscale or full-color) of pictures. **Google** also offers filtering to keep out mature content. **FAST** at: <http://multimedia.alltheweb.com/> and **Lycos' Multimedia Search**, at: <http://multimedia.lycos.com>, use the same FAST multimedia search technology adding audio and video selections. **AltaVista** has an image

search, at: <http://www.altavista.com/sites/search/simage>. **Yahoo!** has its own Image Gallery of about 400,000 images that you can search at: <http://gallery.yahoo.com/>, or you can use it to search Corbis (which by the way can cost up to \$30/picture) or NBA sites.

Ditto Visual Search Engine at: <http://ditto.com/> is probably the best image-specific engine. It is much smaller than Google, but usually produces different, sometimes more relevant results. <sup>11</sup>

Ithaki at: <http://www.ithaki.net/images/> is an image and photo meta search engine which searches Ditto, Dino Cobion, AltaVista Images, Fast Picture search, Lycos & Excite Photo finder. The problem is that it brings back very few results from which to choose. For example the search term "accident" brought back only 20 results.

The Public Health Image Library at: <http://phil.cdc.gov/Phil/default.asp> commonly called PHIL contains an extensive collection of anatomical images and multimedia files which may be of use in personal injury cases. It is a very good source, but be sure to check for copyright protected images which are noted under the graphic. <sup>12</sup>

FindLaw's Demonstrative Evidence Market database is a great source of images. It contains "over 10,000 medical images. The illustrations were developed for legal matters, such as medical malpractice exhibits." <sup>13</sup> But it is pricey! Images start at \$100 and go to \$350!

The Ninth Circuit ruled recently that image search engines may display thumbnail-size images

## ADVANCED

## Hand-Held Computers

**Handheld computers - are they a tool or a toy?**

Although they are often considered techie toys,



“handhelds are more expensive than PDAs and provide more computing options (software such as word processing, spreadsheets, and web access) in addition to basic organizing tools.”<sup>15</sup>


If one is a toy, it is the PDA.

The PalmLawyer's Briefcase is a metaphor for how a lawyer can use a Palm OS handheld computer (Palm III, V and VII models, IBM WorkPad, and Handspring Visor) to do legal work that was virtually impossible to do just a year ago. A lawyer with a Palm OS handheld, a GoType! portable keyboard and a document editing program, can now think of the combination as a “briefcase” that can be filled with current statutory law, applicable court rules, notes and copied text, and documents-in-progress from the desktop PC to be worked on anywhere.

To understand how this “briefcase” works, read Joseph

Kornowski's article, “PalmLawyer's Briefcase” at <[http://www.lexisonewireless.com/arc\\_briefcase.html](http://www.lexisonewireless.com/arc_briefcase.html)>

“Profiles in Purchasing: Technology Goes to Trial” by Alison Diana at <<http://www.mobilecomputing.com/showarchives.cgi?104>> is another interesting article that deals mainly with the decision-making process used to justify the purchase of handheld computers instead of laptops for the 780 attorneys in the international law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker.

Before AND after you  purchase a handheld, be sure to visit HandheldComputerDepot.com at <<http://www.handheldcomputerdepot.com/index.html>> for all things “handheld” including their “Buying Guide” and “Discussion Forum.”

A must-have for your handheld will be PC-cillin for Wireless at <[http://www.antivirus.com/free\\_tools/wireless/](http://www.antivirus.com/free_tools/wireless/)> provides easy-to-use anti-virus security for wireless devices including Palm, Pocket PC, or EPOC device during beaming, synchronization, or Internet access.

## Special points of interest:

- To get a good understanding of what a handheld computer can do for you, read: “PalmLawyer's Briefcase”
- Visit Handheld-ComputerDepot.com for all things handheld related!
- Be sure to check out PC-cillin for Wireless for anti-virus security.

## BEGINNERS

## “Visual” Search Engines (Continued)

*Continued from Page 1*

the top of the page (yet another way to find what you've forgotten to cite!) and you can see where you are in the directory all the time because the path your search has taken is always displayed. What I didn't like was that our library was not listed under “Society >

Law > Law Libraries > United States > Ohio.” SearchShots is based largely on the Open Directory's database.

SurfWax at <<http://www.surfwax.com/>> delivers results from approximately 1200 sources<sup>5</sup> including the visible and invisible Web, newsfeeds, and even intranets!

*Continued on Page 4*

Continued from Page 1



Click on “Why SurfWax” to see the many methods they have to help users get at the information they need. SurfWax is technically not a “visual” engine because it uses words instead of pictures, but the concept is the same - offering users a shortcut to information. Their search results are broken down into three or four categories - an author’s summary, context, key points, and site’s focus words.

Vivisimo at <<http://vivisimo.com/>> uses metasearch technology developed at Carnegie Mellon University. “The interface is clean and simple. Using Vivisimo is easy and intuitive. And the results - well, the results are often terrific!”<sup>5</sup>



Document clustering technology is the key. “Vivisimo presents its results in two panes, the left pane shows a hierarchical menu of topics and subtopics, while the right pane shows the group of results that you select from the left-pane menu.”<sup>6</sup> Beside each page title, there are links which give you interactive, clickable pages. Below each

listing is the source engines where the entry was found, with the page's rank (i.e. “Yahoo 2nd, Excite 3rd”). Click on the source engine's name, and you get the full results from that engine.”<sup>7</sup>

Last, but far from the least, we come to WiseNut at: <<http://www.wisenut.com/>> “Launched in Sept. 2001, WiseNut quickly became the fastest, smartest and most comprehensive new search engine on the market. The company's patent-pending ranking technology has been heralded for its ability to deliver exact results every time.”<sup>8</sup> It has a strong list of investors, and their “promotional material makes a credible pitch to position the company as potential industry leader.”<sup>7</sup> Besides their “Sneak-A-Peek” which allows you to view Web pages, WiseNut will let you know if other pages from that same site are available for viewing.<sup>8</sup> Like Search Shots and Vivisimo, the WiseNut “WiseGuide” generates categories that are related to the words in your query. “For very general queries or for words with multiple meanings, this feature can help you quickly find just what you're looking for.”<sup>9</sup>



## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> “SearchShots.com Launches ‘Visual’ Search Engine.” Eric Ward’s www.URLwire.com. 18 Jan 2001. URLwire. 8 Feb 2002. <<http://www.urlwire.com/news/011801.html>>

<sup>2</sup> Coltery, Simon. “Today’s Tipple—Visual Search.” Free Pint. 3 Feb 2001. Free Pint Limited. 3 Feb 2002. <[http://www.freepint.com/bar/read.php?i=7942&FreePint\\_Session=ce599affa8657fde5830158fb3e9ab3a](http://www.freepint.com/bar/read.php?i=7942&FreePint_Session=ce599affa8657fde5830158fb3e9ab3a)>

<sup>3</sup> “Answwwwer - Internet Visual Search Robot.” Yahoo!Singapore Tech 19 November 2001. 2001 ZDNet Australia. 8 Feb 2002. <<http://sg.tech.yahoo.com/011119/69/1vcli.html>>

<sup>4</sup> “Answwwwer - Visual Search Robot - 1.7 by Silk Sail Download32.com. 1996-2002 Download32.com Software Co. 8 Feb 2002. <<http://www.downlinx.com/proghtml/285/28568.htm>>

<sup>5</sup> & <sup>6</sup> “Power Up With New Metasearch Tools: Part 3: Live It Up With Vivisimo.” Web Search. July 9, 2001. About.com, Inc. 6 Feb 2002. <<http://websearch.about.com/library/weekly/aa070901c.htm?iam=unspec&terms=vivisimo>>

<sup>7</sup> “Tasty New Search Engines: Part 3: WISEnut—Why Not?” Web Search. 5 Sept 2001. About.com, Inc. 5 Feb 2002. <<http://www.websearch.about.com/library/weekly/aa071601c.htm>>

<sup>8</sup> “WiseGuide.” WiseNut.Search.Exactly. 2001 WiseNut, Inc. 6 Feb 2002. <[http://www.wisenut.com/help/help\\_wiseguide.html](http://www.wisenut.com/help/help_wiseguide.html)>.

<sup>9</sup> “Internet Legal Research Weekly, Volume 3, Issue 4” (electronic newsletter) by Jack Mighell. Tmighell@swbell.net To subscribe, send a blank email message to ilrw-

subscribe@listbot.com. (27 Jan 2002) (copy on file with author)

<sup>10</sup> “Neat Net Tricks.” (electronic newsletter). By Jack Teems. NNT@silver.lyris.net, to subscribe <<http://neatnettricks.com/>> 1 Feb 2002 (copy on file with author)

<sup>11</sup> “Internet Legal Research Weekly, Volume 3, Issue 1” (electronic newsletter) by Jack Mighell. Tmighell@swbell.net To subscribe, send a blank email message to ilrw-subscribe@listbot.com. (6 Jan 2002) (copy on file with author)

<sup>12</sup> “The Scout Report,” Copyright Internet Scout Report Project 1994-2001. <<http://scout.cs.wise.edu/>>.

<sup>13</sup> Miccioli, Gloria. “Researching Medical Literature on the Internet - 2001 Update.” LLRX.com. 3 Sept 2001. Law Library Resource Xchange, LLC. 11 Feb 2002. <<http://www.llrx.com/features/medical2001.htm#search>>

<sup>14</sup> Tyburski, Genie. “Research News: TVC Alert, 7 Feb 2002.” The Virtual Chase. 7 Feb 2002. Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll. 8 Feb 2002. <<http://www.virtualchase.com/tvcalert/feb02/7feb02.html>>

<sup>15</sup> Matthews, P, B LaSalle, J Allison, K Saag, and L Moreland. “What is a PDA?” Using A Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) in Clinical Research for Data. IPittman GCRC Informatics CORE, University of Alabama at Birmingham. 10 Jan 2002. <<http://www.gcrc.uab.edu/agsm/talks/PDAs/tsld003.htm>>